

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A network transaction system applicable to cyberspace banking services using an open network, which 5 allows customers to authenticate themselves through a simplified procedure. A customer's terminal station and a plurality of bank systems are interconnected via networks, and it is assumed that the customer wishes to newly open a bank account in a bank system among them, or a target bank 10 system, and that the customer has an existing bank account in a different bank system, or an cooperative bank system. Using his/her terminal station, the customer applies for a new bank account by supplying the target bank system with a ciphertext message containing existing account 15 information descriptive of the customer's bank account in the cooperative bank system. The target bank system requests the cooperative bank system to confirm the customer's existing bank account, while forwarding thereto a part of the ciphertext message containing the existing 20 account information. The cooperative bank system decrypts the received message and confirms the validity of the account that the customer claims to own. It then returns a response message to the target bank system to report the result of the account confirmation. The target bank system 25 decides whether to accept or to reject the application for a new account based on the response message from the cooperative bank system.

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